

Application No. 10/694,234
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.111
Reply to Office Action dated October 17, 2005
January 13, 2006

REMARKS

By this amendment, the specification and claims 2-3, 9, 15-16 have been amended in this application. Currently, claims 1-22 are pending in the application.

The Examiner stated that the patent number associated with parent application 10/055,033 should be inserted on page 1 of the specification in the appropriate place. By this amendment, the specification has been amended to include the patent number for the parent application on page 1.

Claims 16-17 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(a) for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner stated that in claim 16, line 4, "the threshold value adjusting switch" lacks antecedent basis (note the claim dependency). By this amendment, dependency of claim 16 has been changed to claim 15 to provide antecedent basis for "the threshold value adjusting switch". It is respectfully submitted that this objection should be withdrawn in view of the amendment to claim 16.

Claims 3-4, 9 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

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Regarding claim 3, line 4, the Examiner stated that "opposite an end part" is indefinite as to what element's "end part" is intended. By this amendment, claim 3 has been amended to recite "the end part of the top surface of the casing". It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn in view of the amendment to claim 3.

Regarding claim 9, line 3-4, "in a lengthwise direction thereof respectively" is indefinite as to whether "thereof" refers to "display sections" (line 2) or to "plurality of digits" (line 3), and whether "lengthwise direction ... respectively" implies that the referred to elements (either "display sections" or "digits") are being arranged in a particular manner, e.g. an "end-to-end" manner (i.e., such that the referred-to elements are adjacent one another along their "short" dimension, if rectangular in shape) or a "side-by-side" manner (i.e., adjacent along their "long" dimension, if rectangular in shape). By this amendment, claim 9 has been amended to recite "in a lengthwise direction of the display sections respectively". It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn in view of the amendment to claim 9.

Regarding claim 15, last line, "an end" is indefinite as to what element's "end" is intended. By this amendment, claim 15

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has been amended to recite "an end part of the top surface of the casing". It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn in view of the amendment to claim 15.

Regarding claim 16, line 4, "opposite an end part" is indefinite as to what element's "end part" is intended. By this amendment, claim 16 has been amended to recite "the top surface of the casing opposite the end part of the surface of the casing". It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn in view of the amendment to claim 16.

Claims 1-22 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being obvious over claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9 and 11-17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,717,523.

Applicant hereby submits a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejection over this prior patent. In view of this Terminal Disclaimer, it is submitted that the rejection under the doctrine of double patenting should be withdrawn and claims 1-22 should be allowed.


Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this application is now in condition for allowance and an action to this effect is respectfully requested.

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If there are any questions or concerns regarding the foregoing remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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